

*Audiphone. (The)*

THE

# AUDIPHONE

A NEW INVENTION

THAT ENABLES

☞ THE DEAF ☞

TO HEAR THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE TEETH, AND THE  
DEAF AND DUMB TO HEAR AND LEARN TO SPEAK.

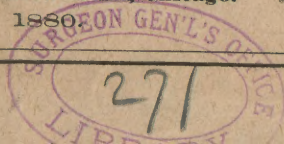


A Class of Deaf Mutes Listening to Music for the First Time, by aid of the AUDIPHONE. (See page 22.)  
(From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, Dec. 13, 1879.)

Invented by RICHARD S. RHODES, Chicago, Ill.

SOLD ONLY BY  
RHODES & McCLURE,  
Methodist Church Block, Chicago.

1880



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# THE AUDIPHONE!

Patented throughout the Civilized World.

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## PRICE.

*Conversational, plain,* - - - \$10

*Conversational, ornamental,* \$15, \$25, and \$50  
(According to Decoration.)

*Double Audiphone,* - - - \$15  
(For Deaf Mutes, enabling them to hear their own voice.)

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**CHICAGO, ILL.**

**R. S. RHODES.**

**J. B. McCLURE.**

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# THE AUDIPHONE.

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE DEAF.

**An Instrument that Enables Deaf Persons to Hear Ordinary Conversation Readily Through the Medium of the Teeth, and those Born Deaf and Dumb to Hear and Learn to Speak. How it is Done, Etc.**

The Audiphone is a new instrument made of a peculiar composition, possessing the property of gathering the faintest sounds (somewhat similar to a telephone diaphragm), and conveying them to the auditory nerve, through the medium of the teeth. *The external ear has nothing whatever to do in hearing with this wonderful instrument.*

It is made in the shape of a fan, and can be used as such, if desired. (See fig. 1, page 4.)

When adjusted for hearing, it is in suitable tension and the upper edge is pressed slightly against one or more of the upper teeth. (See figs. 2 and 3, pp. 4 and 5.)

Ordinary conversation can be heard with ease. In most cases deafness is not detected, it being generally supposed, as is the experience of the inventor, that the party deaf, is simply amusing himself with the fan.

The instrument also greatly facilitates conversation by softening the voice of the person using it, enabling—even in cases of mutes—the deaf party to hear his own words distinctly.



**Those Born Deaf can Hear, and the Dumb are enabled to Learn to Speak.**

Mutes, by using the Audiphone according to the directions on page 6, can hear their own voice and readily learn to speak.

### DIRECTIONS FOR USE.



Fig. 1. The Audiphone in its natural position; used as a fan.

Fig. 1 represents the natural position of the Audiphone, in which position it is carried (by gentlemen) by attaching it by means of a hook or button to the vest or inside of the coat, where it will be convenient for use and fully concealed. The shape and flexibility of the disc render the Audiphone an excellent fan.



Fig. 2. The Audiphone in tension; the proper position for hearing.

Fig. 2 represents the Audiphone in tension and ready for hearing. It is put in this position by means of the silken cords which are attached to the disc, and which pass down as a single cord under the "wedge" in the handle. By opening the wedge (as seen in Fig. 3) the cord, which now moves freely, should be drawn down until the disc is brought to the proper tension (as seen in Fig. 2) when the wedge is closed and the instrument is held in the position required.

Experience will regulate the exact tension needed for each person, and also the tension necessary for different voices, music, distant speaking, etc. In this respect the Audiphone is adjusted to suit sound as an opera glass is adjusted to suit distance.





Fig. 3. The Audiphone properly adjusted to the upper teeth; ready for use. (Side view.)

Fig. 3 represents the position in which the Audiphone should be held for hearing. It should be held loosely in the hand and its upper edge should be placed in easy contact, by a slight pressure, against one or more of the upper teeth, that are the most convenient. In many instances the "eye teeth" give the best results, but a little practice will soon determine the best for hearing. *The lower teeth should not come in contact with the Audiphone*, nor should the Audiphone be pressed beyond the point of tension at which it has been adjusted, as seen in Fig. 2

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#### NOTE.

##### **A Word Concerning the Very Deaf—False Teeth—And those Using Ear Trumpets.**

Persons who have been *very* deaf for many years, and who are accustomed, wholly or in part, to interpret sound by the movement of the lips of the party speaking, may not readily distinguish the *words* of the speaker when *first* using the audiphone, though the *sound* of these words will be distinctly heard. In all such cases a little practice will be required to enable a deaf party to rely wholly upon sound. Such persons should request a friend to read aloud while they (the listener) should carefully observe the words (as spoken) in a duplicate book or paper. When this is properly done the deaf person will be surprised with what distinctness every word is heard by the use of the audiphone. In this way they *educate* themselves

to articulate sounds, and soon learn to hear well without observing the movements of the lips.

Persons having false teeth, if they fit firmly, can, notwithstanding, use the Audiphone successfully.

It should be further noted, that persons using such instruments as ear trumpets, etc., which in all cases increase the deafness by concentrating an unnatural force and volume of sound upon the impaired organ, should at once lay aside all such devices on receiving the Audiphone. Such persons, thus accustomed to the *unnatural* sound, through the ear trumpet, will require some practice to again familiarize themselves with the natural sound of the human voice which, the Audiphone always conveys.

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### TO LEARN TO SPEAK.

Mutes will learn to speak by holding the Audiphone against the teeth, as above directed, and practice speaking while it is in this position.

A good exercise is for the mute, at first, to put one hand on the instructor's throat, watch the motion of his lips, while his other hand is on his own throat, the instructor meantime holding the Audiphone to the mute's teeth. The mute will *feel* the influence of the sound on his hand in the instructor's throat, imitate it in his own throat, will *hear* the speaker's voice on the Audiphone and will be aided in imitating the speaker by *seeing* his lips, and will also hear *his own voice on the Audiphone*, and readily learn to speak.

It is remarkable how rapidly they learn to distinguish words by sound. In a very short time, they have learned to repeat whole sentences spoken to them while blindfolded. It is believed that every mute child may hear and learn to speak by using the Audiphone.



It must be borne in mind, however, that a mute who has never heard has no conception of the meaning of the simplest words. Even though he be very intelligent and highly educated, read and write fluently, and interpret language readily by the motion of the speaker's lips, still he will not understand the most elementary *sound* until he is taught. He is familiar with visible, but knows nothing of articulate, language. At first, if you ask him to intimate whether or not he hears by means of the Audiphone, he may indicate that he *feels* a peculiar sensation that is new to him. It will not be long, however, until he realizes that what seemed to him *feeling* we call *sound*. Parents and teachers of mutes are, therefore, recommended to begin with the rudiments of language, as in teaching a child of two years.

Mutes enjoy music from the first. A piano or organ should be used daily in their early training, at first resting the handle of the Audiphone on the instrument. Start and stop the music at intervals, until they realize the difference. Then they may withdraw from the piano and gradually accustom themselves to the new sensation.

Faithful and patient practice, repeating over and over again the vowels and other simple sounds day after day, must be the ground-work of the mute's articulate education. To expect him to understand the first sounds that reach his brain is like asking the child in the A B C class to read Bacon or Shakspeare.

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### THE DOUBLE AUDIPHONE.

This instrument consists of two similar and parallel discs, with the lower edges united, from which a handle extends. The upper edges are separated about a quarter of an inch by beads, and adjusted to the teeth by means of notches. The voice of the mute falls between the discs, and is carried back, thus enabling him to hear his own voice.

## HISTORICAL.

## ORIGIN OF THE AUDIPHONE.

(From the Chicago Tribune, August 26, 1879.)

**A Device for Removing the Misery of the Deaf—Discovery of an Entirely New Principle in Acoustics.**

The ingenuity of American inventors has displayed itself for many years in the patenting of instruments to help the hearing of different people. All these devices are but modifications of the ear-trumpet. They have all been attempts to remedy, through the ear, a defect existing within it, and many of them have undoubtedly rather worsened than bettered in its sense the constant use of the defective organ; and the throwing upon it of a greater volume of sound than it is naturally accustomed to has a tendency to increase the disease which has affected the hearing.

An inventor has now come forward, however, who has struck out on a new path; who has discarded the ear as the means of hearing, and putting on one side all those ear-trumpets, large and small, which are bothersome to carry around, and which really are only available when a speaker talks directly into them, and which are practically useless if listening at a public meeting, theatre, or an opera, and has utilized the mouth—or, to speak more directly, the teeth—as a means of making the deaf hear. It is the application of a long-known principle, but none the less ingenious, and none the less useful for that. The inventor is a Chicagoan—Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, the senior partner of the publishing firm of Rhodes & McClure. He has been deaf for nearly twenty years. After going through with the usual routine of ear-trumpets, and all that sort of nonsense, and getting thoroughly disgusted with it, he happened one day to hold a watch between his teeth, and



noticed that he could distinctly hear its ticking, though when he held it to his ear no sound was audible. This set him to thinking that possibly he might be able to invent some device by which the sounds of the human voice could be transmitted to the auditory nerve, through the medium of the tube, just as the ticking of the watch had been. So he launched out upon a series of experiments, extending over many years, and costing not a little, which finally brought him to an assured success. He began by taking strips of wood, say eight by nine inches each way, and, by holding the upper end of the strip against his teeth—the strip being so placed that the voice of the person to whom he was speaking should strike upon it, and the vibrations imparted to it by the voice might be given to his teeth, and thus pass to the auditory nerve, he found that he was able to hear, but that the wood was too resonant. The sound thus obtained echoed too much. Those echoes run into one another so that the hearer hears a sound and nothing more. These experiments of wood were very thorough, extending over a hundred different kinds in as many different ways. Then he resorted to metal, trying tin, silver, steel, and brass, but with equally unsatisfactory results. He got the sound, but it was too hollow. He tried compositions of paper, and everything else imagination could suggest, until about a year ago he hit upon vulcanized rubber, and found that that article—which had not the resonance of many of the other things which he had tried—was the most satisfactory. Having convinced himself that that was the best medium for conveying sounds, he then had to go through another series of experiments to decide as to the best shape, and manner of using it. That problem he worked out to his satisfaction; and, having convinced himself of his success, applied for letters-patent, for what he calls an Audi-phone, or a sound hearer.

## AUDIPHONE IN CHICAGO.

## TESTS AND TESTIMONY.

FROM THE N. W. CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

(Organ Methodist Episcopal Church, Dated Sept. 10, 1879.)

"A trial of the capabilities of the Audiphone was made before several journalists and other gentlemen September 4, on three persons, one of whom had never heard anything, while the two others were partially deaf. The mute was blindfolded and asked to respond to the sounds made with the use of the Audiphone, which he did in a manner to convince all present that he could hear an ordinary vocal tone. The Audiphone enables those who are partially deaf to hear with nearly or quite the perfection of those who are in complete possession of the sense."

LATER.—(Same paper, November 26, 1879.) "We have noted the success, in many cases, of the fan-shaped, rubber 'Audiphone,' sold by Rhodes & McClure, of this city. We have seen and tested the Audiphone, to which we feel under obligations because alone of the magical and blessed boon it has proved to several loved personal friends. In some cases the relief has been instantaneous, magical, and, to the patients, overwhelming. We have seen friends burst into glad tears and sink quietly to the floor under the glad stroke of gratitude and joy. We add for information: The instrument costs ten dollars; it is fan-shaped, and under that guise its use for relief is not always detected; it will succeed when the drum of the ear alone is damaged and the auditory nerve is healthy in part or wholly; the upper horizontal edge of the fan is applied to the upper teeth, and false teeth, if well fitted, do not defeat the instrument. The



relief given to so many hundreds will secure undying gratitude to the inventor."

STILL LATER.—(Same paper, January 14, 1880.) "Rev. B. C. Dennis, pastor at Pre-emption, Ill., has, as we noted, tried in vain to secure medical relief from deafness. He finally tried the 'Audiphone,' of which he says in a private note: 'The Audiphone is bringing me into a new world of sound. I thank God.' Some are aided by the instrument, while others are beyond help. The test is in the patient alone, not in the Audiphone. For their sakes alone, we advise all the deaf-in-part to try the experiment. No money, or mere request from the makers could gain this good word. We speak it unsolicited for all sufferers. Dr. D. D. Whedon did not obtain relief thereby."

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## FROM THE HON. JOSEPH MEDILL.

IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

(Date, August 26, 1879.)

"It is known that the editor of this paper has been deaf for a number of years, and that during that time he has used all the devices for improving his hearing that he could hear of or that were brought to him. None of them were, however, satisfactory. He has tried the Audiphone for some weeks, and finds that it not only improves his hearing

### BUT RESTORES THE SENSE

of hearing to him. Not merely does it answer when engaged in conversation with a person who is a foot, or a few feet, from him, but it answers perfectly at a concert. Each note of the musician and each tone of the singer come as clearly and distinctly as they did before the sense of hearing was impaired. Others have also tested this instrument, and have expressed themselves satisfied with its working."

## FROM THE ADVANCE.

[(Organ Congregational Church, dated Sept. 11, 1879.)]

“Hear, O ye deaf ! The ‘Audiphone’ is the name of an instrument, recently invented by Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago, which, it is believed, will work wonders for the relief of the deaf. Its construction is as simple almost as that of a Japanese fan, which in shape it resembles. It is a device by which one whose hearing is either wholly or partially lost, may hear—not through the ear—but through the *teeth*; that is, by means of vibrations communicated from the edge of the fan-shaped instrument to the teeth, and through the teeth, and thence to the auditory nerve. We have seen persons hear sounds in this way who never before knew what sound was. If we are not much mistaken, the world will yet build a monument to our friend Mr. Rhodes for the beneficence of his invention.”

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## FROM THE INTERIOR.

“We have known for some time that Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of the publishing firm of Rhodes & McClure (our former agent, Rev. J. B. McClure), was perfecting a new invention for making the deaf to hear. The invention is a method of conveying sound to the auditory nerve through the teeth, and it seems to be a success. Hon. Joseph Medill (editor of the *Chicago Tribune*), whose hearing is very deficient, is able, by its use, to hear ordinary conversation perfectly, and others bear similar testimony.”

LATER.—“I knew it was coming—something which would do for the hearing what spectacles do for the sight.” So writes a friend in regard to the Audiphone. But the tests at Methodist Church Block show that the Audiphone does more than this. No spectacles will give a blind man sight, but the Audiphone does give the deaf man hearing.



## TESTIMONY FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

(Date Sept. 4, 1879.)

**The Audiphone—A Most Satisfactory Test.**

“In the parlors of the First Methodist Church yesterday afternoon, Mr. R. S. Rhodes, the inventor of the audiphone, submitted his instrument to some severe and very interesting tests, in the presence of a number of people, including Mr. G. C. Tallerday, of the *Medical Times*, Dr. T. W. Brophy, Prof. Swing, Mr. L. M. Stone, and Mr. Gray, of the *Interior*.

Already *The Tribune* has contained a brief account of this wonderful invention, and the interest it has awakened among deaf people is but a revival of that over the announcement made a year or so ago by Edison when he declared himself the discoverer of an appliance by which the man or woman whose ears were utterly useless should be able to hear, not only ordinary conversation, but should be able to appreciate the pleasures of music. When Edison failed to fulfill his promises, people generally, and many medical men, too, scouted the idea of ever being able to reach the point which the inventor of the quadruplex telegraph thought he had reached; but Mr. Rhodes, a deaf man himself, when the telephonic diaphragm appeared, caught a suggestion from it, and the result was his audiphone.

It is in shape like a square Japanese fan, and is made of a composition the major portion of which is vulcanite. At the back of this thing there is a cord, stretching from the upper edge to the handle. By means of this cord the instrument is tuned like a violin, and the tension is regulated according to the distance the sound has to travel. The upper edge of this audiphone is placed against the two upper teeth, and the vibrations received on its surface are conveyed by the medium of the teeth, and the nerves of the teeth to the acoustic nerves, and produce upon them an action

similar to the action produced by sound upon the drum of the ear.

In addition to experiments made yesterday with people who were not completely devoid of hearing, two boys were made to hear the human voice for the first time in their lives. One, 17 years of age, was deaf and dumb, while the other was about 15, and, although he could speak, he was perfectly deaf. At first the sounds were strange to them, but after a little they signified that they could hear them distinctly, and understand perfectly that they were sounds. Of course, in order that they may comprehend what the meaning of the words spoken is they will have to be taught.

Medical men and others were charmed with the experiments, they admired the simplicity of the invention, and there certainly now appears to be no earthly reason why the deaf should remain deaf."

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### TESTIMONY FROM THE INTER-OCEAN.

(Date, Sept. 4, 1879.)

**News for the Deaf—Complete Success of the Audiphone—Simple yet Marvelous.**

"Yesterday afternoon a number of interested gentlemen assembled in one of the parlors of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, on Clark Street, to gather some information relative to the audiphone. This little machine is the invention of Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of the firm of Rhodes & McClure, and is intended to be used by those who have wholly or partially lost the sense of hearing.

The audiphone is very simple in construction, and without any mechanism. It is apparently a black polished india-rubber or "vulcanite" fan, the leaf part being square with rounded corners, the material very flexible, so that the



leaf can, if necessary, be bent double. One side has cords attached from the thin end or top of the flap of the fan to the handle. When these cords are drawn tight they curve down the flap or leaf of the audiphone, which is then fixed for use. It is used by the deaf by applying the thin edge of the fan to the four front teeth of the upper jaw.

There were several deaf mutes present, who were experimented upon. Mr. Charles Day was the first of these. Fixing the audiphone to his teeth he repeated quite audibly the monosyllabic sounds "hoo, hoo," which Mr. Rhodes recited to him. To prove that he had not imitated the sounds from watching the illustrator's lips, Mr. Day was blindfolded and then also showed conclusively, by repeating two more sounds, that this was a bona-fide triumph of the audiphone. Without the apparatus Mr. Day could only be communicated with by the deaf-mute sign language. Mr. Day, who is an intelligent young fellow, is enthusiastic with regard to the audiphone. He has for the first time by its aid heard the sound of his own voice. To *The Inter-Ocean* reporter he stated, via the interpreter, that he was satisfied with the audiphone, and repeated the word "water" so as to be understood, which he had learned by means of these "new spectacles for the ears."

A gentleman who was very hard of hearing tested the audiphone and found it of great benefit. Several other experiments were made, and were in each case more or less successful.

Among those who were in the audience were the Rev. Professor Swing, the Rev. L. M. Stone, and Dr. Gray, of the *Interior*; Dr. J. C. Tallerdar, of the *Medical Times*; Dr. Brophy, and representatives of *The Inter-Ocean* and other daily journals."

## FROM THE "FADERNESLANDET."

(Scandinavian Paper, Chicago, September, 1879, Translation.)

[The editor of this journal voluntarily interviewed the parties mentioned herein concerning the Audiphone.]

"This instrument has already attracted a good deal of attention, and all agree that it is going to be of immense value for the deaf. The most prominent papers have contained big treatises over the Audiphone, and we could furnish our readers with hundreds of undeniable testimonies concerning the excellences of the Audiphone, but space compels us to be satisfied in giving the following few:

The Hon. Jos. Medill, proprietor of the Chicago *Tribune*, has been deaf for a number of years, and during that time he has been using all devices known for improving his hearing. None of them were satisfactory, but now, when he has tried the Audiphone for some weeks, he finds that it not only improves his hearing but restores the sense of hearing to him.

The son of Mr. Jacob Kleinhaus, No. 91 Chicago Avenue, has a long time been suffering from deafness. He states, that at a visit at the company's office he could hear very perfectly through the Audiphone, and intends to purchase one.

Frank E. Gerber, No. 127 Twentieth St., and Samuel F. Woods, No. 94 Washington St., also witness the excellency of the instrument.

Charles F. Day, No. 755 Michigan Ave., deaf since 1864, can hear somewhat with the Audiphone.

John Holland, deaf eight years, residing at No. 791 Hinman St., can hear with Audiphone.

Frank Luttrell, residing in Cairo, Ill., states the same.

Fred. Stickel, from Delavan, Wis., deaf and dumb, and attending school in Chicago, can hear with Audiphone. Thinks he can not do without it.



Lars M. Larson, a Swede, residing in Springville, Wis., believes that he can learn to hear with the Audiphone.

Alexander Weisel, twenty years old, eighteen years deaf, can hear with Audiphone."

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### FROM THE "DIE DEUTSCHE WARTE."

(German Paper, Chicago, Sept. 14, 1879. Translation.)

"Chicago once more ahead! for Richard S. Rhodes, of the publishing firm of Rhodes & McClure, of this city, who has been deaf for about twenty years, has succeeded in bringing to practical use the long-known theory of hearing by means of the bones of any part of the head, and for which the eye teeth, with their delicate nerve system, form the basis of operation. It is a well-known fact that Beethoven, the great composer, used as a substitute for the ear a metallic rod, which he held between the teeth, with the other end resting on the sounding board of his piano, by which means he was able to hear what his brain had produced, and thus reach perfection in music which has rarely been equaled.

We can say with assurance that those denied the pleasure of hearing, and who have a good set of teeth, will no longer be deaf. We have the best evidence of this in our friend Jos. M. Hill, the editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, who assures us, that since he is in possession of the Audiphone he does not feel the loss of hearing to such an extent as before, and that he hears with the Audiphone every word spoken or any other noise near him as good as those whose hearing is perfect, and can again enjoy the theater and other public amusements."

## AUDIPHONE IN NEW YORK.

FROM THE NEW YORK WORLD.

(Date, Nov. 22, 1879.)

**The Deaf Made to Hear—Singular and Touching Results Attained by a Simple Little Invention.**

There has been a great deal of fun made over attempts to make the deaf people hear, and the wonderful Edison with his megaphone has done not a little to encourage the general amusement, but a man deafer than Edison has shown that people born deaf or made deaf by disease can actually be made to hear to a greater or less extent, and so can be freed from many of the inconveniences formerly inseparable from their condition.

This fact was shown yesterday at the Audiphone parlors, No. 41 East Twenty-Second Street, where the Audiphone was exhibited by Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago. Dr. George M. Beard, the well-known electrician, in introducing Mr. Rhodes said he had not thoroughly examined the instrument but believed it would prove more serviceable to those who were almost completely deaf than to those who were partially deaf, providing that the auditory nerve was not destroyed. While Dr. Beard was speaking Mr. Rhodes sat listening to him with an Audiphone against the teeth of his upper jaw, and when Dr. Beard had finished Mr. Rhodes rose, and in the high-pitched voice common to deaf people, said Dr. Beard had stated the case exactly. He himself had been deaf for twenty years, and had tried every form of ear trumpet without benefit. He had fallen into the habit of placing his watch between his teeth and listening to its ticking, and one day it suddenly occurred to him that he could hear articulate language in the same manner. He





EXPERIMENTS WITH THE AUDIPHONE ON A CLASS OF DEAF MUTES IN NEW YORK CITY, NOV. 21, 1879.  
(From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper.)





then began experiments to find a proper medium for conducting sounds to the ear through the teeth, and after two years perfected the Audiphone, which he has since used. Mr. Rhodes then exhibited the Audiphone and explained the manner of its use.

The interesting part of the exhibition was the introduction of a class of deaf mutes from the Washington Heights Asylum. This class included two young ladies, a young girl, two young men and two boys.

One of the two young ladies adjusted the Audiphone with feminine intuition, and as she had been deaf since the age of two years, Mr. Rhodes attempted with her the experience between two sounds. He pronounced the letters "A" and "O," at the same time making the corresponding deaf mute signs, and after a moment he blind-folded the young lady. Then he pronounced the same letters, varying their order, and each time the young lady raised her finger and made the deaf mute sign of the letter which had been spoken to her. Then chords were played on a piano and on an organ while the young lady held the Audiphone in her mouth, and it was shown that she could hear the sounds perfectly.

The experiment with the other young lady of the class was very touching. She had been born deaf, and she showed the greatest eagerness when she was given an Audiphone and promised that she should hear. The experiments made with the other young lady of the class were repeated successfully with her, and she was then asked if she had ever heard her own voice. She answered in the negative, and she was instructed by means of signs and by placing her hand on Mr. Rhodes' throat so as to feel the vibrations of the vocal chords how to produce sound. Then she was given a double Audiphone—one in which there are two discs between which the voice is thrown—and she

endeavored to make a sound. At first she was unsuccessful, but on the second attempt she made a long, wailing sound which was in strange contrast with the brightness of her face. Her face flushed as she sank into her seat and pulled her veil over her face. The instructor asked her if she had heard her voice, and she answered that she had. She could describe the effect it had upon her only by saying it was "a curious sensation."

Another interesting case was that of a young man who lost his hearing at the age of two years, and who had lost both of his arms by being run over by a railroad car. In spite of his deformity he was able to make himself understood by peculiar movements of the stumps of his arms, and one of the deaf mute young ladies held an Audiphone against his teeth while experiments were made with him. Like the others, the young man was able to hear spoken words and music by means of the Audiphone, although everything was simply a "rumble" to him as to the others. An ingenious test of the relative—and so to speak articulate—powers of hearing of the class was made by Miss Belle Cole, who sang an echo song in which the tones run from very soft to very loud. The deaf mutes were instructed to raise or lower their hands as the sound was more or less intense to them, and it was interesting to watch them as they stood grouped around the piano, upright and rigid, waiting to catch the sound. Then as Miss Cole sang the hands raised and fell, now slowly, now quickly, until when Miss Cole struck a high note the hand of the young lady who had never before heard her voice shot far above her head.

After this song the audience sang, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and the deaf mutes, who presented a curious sight as they stood facing the people with the Audiphones in their mouths, seemed to enjoy the singing heartily.



## NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

## WONDERS OF THE AUDIPHONE.

Interesting Experiments in New York—The Deaf Made to Hear—  
Sensations of a Young Lady Who Heard Her Voice for  
the First Time.

(Special Correspondence of the *Inter-Ocean*.)

NEW YORK, November 26.—An interesting exhibition of the Audiphone was given in this city last Friday afternoon, under the auspices of the inventor, Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago, in the handsome parlors rented by Caswell & Hazard, who have taken the agency for this country.

The audience was a very stylish one, and beside a number of society people, who are scientific to a fashionable extent, included a number of notabilities, the most interesting of whom was the honored old man, Peter Cooper, who entered the room with the inevitable air-cushion in hand, and installed in a large easy chair, with a number of charming young women hovering about, anxious to contribute to his comfort, sat seeming unconcerned of the attention he attracted.

Never was there a man upon whose face and bearing, riches and power had left so little impress. With his kindly benevolent face, wrinkled with age, stamped with thought, and framed in white hair, long and a little wavy; his gentle, considerate manners and quiet thankfulness, not pride in his green old age, make an impression on the mind not easily effaced. As he came through the door he was met by Henry Bergh, whose giant height and strong, resolute face, render him conspicuous anywhere.

The friends of mankind and animal kind shook hands and beamed at each other. They met on ground of mutual admiration, and both alike devote their time and their wealth to doing the work that seems to them most needed.

Dr. George M. Beard, the scientist, keen-eyed, keen-eared, keen-nosed, was there, ready to detect fault or flaw at a second's notice; Frank B. Carpenter, the artist, who, since the Beecher trial, has been called "the man with the dark, mysterious eyes," sat looking on with interest, and next to him was seated the father of the inventor, George A. Rhodes, a pleasant-faced old gentleman, who told me that he had just been visiting his five sisters, all old ladies, and living in Rhode Island.

Mr. Rhodes was introduced by Dr. Beard in a few well-chosen remarks, and he then gave a brief history of the invention, the years and thought he had given it, the experiments made with different woods, metals, and compositions, before he hit upon the carbonized rubber, which, cut in the shape of a Japanese fan and regulated by cords, is the wonderful instrument that makes the deaf hear, the dumb speak, and an exhibition of it a foretaste of the day of judgment.

Mr. Rhodes added that the principle of the invention was suggested to him by noticing the distinctness with which he could hear a watch held between his teeth tick, when applying it to his ear he heard nothing.

At the conclusion of his remarks the scholars of the Deaf and Dumb Institute were led out, and the invention was more severely tested than it had ever been before.

One sweet-faced girl of sixteen, born deaf and dumb, was brought forward, and the instrument adjusted between two rows of as pearly teeth as can be found. Mr. Rhodes then called out, "A." Instantly a strange look—half fear, half delight—appeared on the girl's countenance, and, in response to a question, she answered with her nimble fingers that she heard, but did not know what, being unable to connect the sound with her figures of speech. This was explained, and the inventor called B. Again she assented; C, the same, and after being told once she really distin-

guished the letters, even blindfolded. She was then requested to articulate, that she might hear the sound of her own voice, which had never fallen upon her ear. At first she refused, saying, in her own language, she was afraid, not knowing what noise might come. Being gently encouraged, but with cheeks burning red with excitement, she at last opened her mouth, and the most pathetic wail, like of a soul in anguish, burst from her lips. Several of the audience were so affected that tears fell from their eyes; as to the girl, she turned white and shivered, saying, with her little hands:

“ Was that really I? Tell me the truth; did I make that strange noise?”

When assured that she did, and could learn to speak like others, her joy was extreme.

Mr. Rhodes was warmly congratulated by the company, and Mr. Cooper spoke of his invention as a blessing and a godsend to the afflicted. Before dispersing refreshments were served, and, highly gratified with the exhibition, the audience dispersed. \* \* \* CRESS.

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## IN THE ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE.

“ ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE,

“ FORDHAM (near New York City), Dec. 4, 1879.

“ On Tuesday, the 2d inst., the Audiphone was tested by a number of pupils of the institute with the following results:

“ Cecilia Lynch, aged sixteen, is supposed to have been deaf from birth. It has, however, been remarked that she could hear very loud sounds and could sometimes distinguish her own name if spoken in a loud tone by a person quite close to her. She says also that she sometimes hears the strains of the organ in the chapel, but so far from deriving any pleasure from the music the confused sounds are



very disagreeable to her. By the use of the Audiphone she not only heard distinctly but could repeat almost every word spoken to her. As she has been instructed in articulation and reads easily from the lips it was thought that this knowledge assisted her. One of the persons present then stood behind her and repeated several words, which she readily imitated, thus proving, beyond a doubt, the value of the Audiphone.

"Annie Toohey, aged ten years, became deaf at the age of three from spinal meningitis. It was supposed that her hearing was completely destroyed, but on applying the Audiphone to her teeth she heard and distinctly repeated after Mr. Rhodes several of the letters of the alphabet. This little girl has begun to make considerable progress in articulation, but up to the day on which she tried the Audiphone the vowel E appeared to be an insurmountable difficulty to her; by the aid of the Audiphone she repeated it with perfect distinctness.

"Another little girl, Sarah Flemming, also heard the voice of Mr. Rhodes and others who spoke to her. As in the preceding case, her deafness was caused by spinal meningitis, by which she was attacked when five years of age. By the aid of the Audiphone she was able to repeat several sounds. Several others tested the Audiphone with more or less success.

"MARY B. MORGAN, Principal."

In a later letter (December 12) Miss Morgan states: "No doubt the Audiphone will be of great service to our pupils."

STILL LATER.—We are using them (the Audiphones) in the class-room, and have good reason to hope that they will be a great success. On Monday, which was the first day that we used them, one child heard and understood almost every word spoken during the school exercises. Thanking you most sincerely for your kindness, I am respectfully yours,  
M. B. MORGAN.

## AUDIPHONE IN PHILADELPHIA

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FROM THE PHILADELPHIA TIMES.

(Date Dec. 9, 1879.)

**Making the Deaf Hear—Asylum Mutes Testing A Machine—  
Those Deaf from Birth and Those Whose Hearing Has  
Long Been Dead Enabled to Hear Their Own  
Voices Once More—A Veteran  
Editor's Wager.**

The experiment of making the deaf to hear and the mute to speak was tried yesterday in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb by Mr. R. S. Rhodes, of Chicago, who, having long experienced the privation of infirm auditory organs, invented a carbon disc, the testing of which as a conductor of sound was the object of yesterday's trial. Those who came to see how the new invention would work were welcomed by the superintendent, and accommodated with chairs in the ample parlors of the institution.

Among those present were E. Mortimer Lewis, David P. Brown and George P. Kimball. Not a few of the interested auditors were enabled to follow the proceedings by means of Audiphones, and all such cheerfully added their testimony to the great amelioration of what was in some cases almost total deafness of many years' standing. The apparatus for the experiments consisted of a grand piano and several Audiphones.

Mr. Rhodes, the inventor, remarked introductorily that only those whose auditory nerve was not wholly dead could be benefited. Very few, however, even of those born deaf, are totally without sense of sound, hence nearly all of those educated in the asylums may be taught to speak, inasmuch as their dumbness is owing solely to their want of use of the organs of speech.

## A DEAF GIRL HEARS.

Miss Ida Brook was first experimented with. The superintendent said she could hear very loud sounds in favorable weather without mechanical assistance. Mr. Rhodes, standing where his lips could not be seen, spoke at the top of his voice twice, but Miss Brook did not betray the faintest sign of having heard. An Audiphone was adjusted for her, and similar sounds were heard by her, as her pleased expression showed. She also heard single notes sounded on the piano up to ten feet distance, beyond which she seemed not to hear. Practiced on A and O she heard well enough to repeat them with reasonable accuracy, much of her facility having doubtless resulted from her cleverness of interpreting the movement of the lips. Mr. Rhodes covered his own face with an Audiphone, and Miss Brook was still able to repeat the sounds, and make the appropriate mute letter signs at the same time.

To illustrate the necessity of long practice to enable even those who hear to speak, Ellen McClurg was next called up. She is about 10 years old, and born of deaf mute parents. She never until lately heard any spoken words. She understood English no better than if she had been Chinese. Words she repeated accurately, but without any sign of understanding their significance. She was intelligent enough in the mute signs.

## MAYOR MEDILL'S BET.

The great editor of the West—Medill, of *The Chicago Tribune*—was deaf. He made two promises, viz.: One to his wife, that he would attend church; the other that he would pay a thousand dollars to any ingenious individual that would let him drop his speaking trumpet. Since then Edison and all the inventors have been "going for Medill." It was at the convention of the Western Associated Press, held a few weeks ago, that Medill lost. Rhodes, who struck



the idea, told him that he hadn't yet got all the patents. So Medill (who looks all the world like Ex-House of Correction Manager Thomas A. Barlow, with a speaking trumpet at his ear) went to the last convention keeping "mum;" and while the youngsters of the newspaper business, like Henry Watterson, James B. McCullagh, of the *Globe-Democrat*, and Murat Halstead and Wash. B. McLean, were trying to arrange their situation of affairs, Medill was quietly holding a fan-like arrangement in his mouth, between his teeth, and when he got tired of holding it that way gave it to the fellows around him to fan themselves with. In the meantime Medill heard everything, and it is reported did great execution in freeing the newspaper press by the first of the year from telegraph monopoly—just by this Japanese fan. And the worst of it is, it is said Medill has to fulfill the second consideration that he promised his wife—that is, to go to church.

## FROM THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD.

(Date, Dec. 9, 1879.)

**The Deaf Hear—Experiments at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum—  
Deaf People Hear the Sound of Their Own Voices  
for the First Time in Many Years.**

In the parlors of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum was yesterday demonstrated the Audiphone, by which the deaf can hear. It is the invention of Mr. R. S. Rhodes, a man who is accounted "hard of hearing." Before experimenting, he explained that the Audiphone was used by placing the instrument against the upper teeth when addressed. He said that where the physical conditions of the persons using the Audiphone are the same the results are the same. Any person having the use of the auditory nerve is enabled to hear through the instrument, but those who have lost the power of this nerve through disease or sickness could not be made to hear.

While Mr. Rhodes was speaking Mr. Curly, of the institution was explaining his words by finger signs to some dozen of the inmates of the asylum who had been brought into the parlor.

Mr. Rhodes also read a letter from the principal of St. Joseph's Institute, at Fordham, in which the results of some experiments were given. It read that out of thirty inmates experimented upon, five, who were entirely deaf, could hear with the Audiphone, sixteen, who could slightly hear the sound of an organ, could hear distinctly, and nine, who barely discerned the sound of the voice, could hear perfectly.

G. B. Gimball explained that his sister, who had been very deaf for a long time, was enabled to hear through the Audiphone quite well. Last Sunday she visited church, and for the first time in seven years, was able to hear and appreciate the sermon.

Ida Brooks, a child of the institution, who had been deaf since birth, was then experimented upon. The Audiphone, which is a fan-shaped instrument, slightly curved by means of a string while in use, was placed against her upper teeth and she then heard a note of the piano at a distance of twelve feet. She was also able to repeat the sounds of letters after Mr. Rhodes. The double telephone was then placed between her teeth, and with it she was able to hear her own voice plainly.

Catherine Lewis, a young lady, also an inmate of the asylum, ordinarily was able to hear a very loud voice. With the Audiphone she could hear and repeat words uttered in a conversational key.

Samuel Davidson a young man of seventeen years, who had been deaf for over ten years, was the next object of attention. He had lost his hearing from disease, and was able only to hear a noise, but could not distinguish the difference in sound. The young man was handed a book to read, in

which Mr. Rhodes read the same passage aloud. With the aid of the instrument the young man was able to follow the reading, and to distinguish each word.

Julia Fooley, a young lady who had the use of her voice, but who could not hear any sound, was the last one to try the instrument. Miss Fooley is an expert reader from the motion of the lips, and readily understood enough of questions to answer that she lost her hearing from brain fever eight years ago. Since that time she had never heard a sound, not even of her own voice. The Audiphone was placed in position in her mouth, and she distinctly heard a note struck upon the piano. With the use of the double instrument she read a few sentences from a book, and was able to distinguish what she said. In explanation the young lady said, while her eyes sparkled with pleasure: "I can hear myself, but it is inconvenient to speak with this in my mouth."

In order to test the power of the Audiphone thoroughly, Miss Fooley was requested to raise and lower her hand according to the high or low note struck on the piano. As she had had no training upon the piano before her sickness, she could not distinguish a high key from a low one. But she lowered and raised her hand according to the volume of sound.



## AUDIPHONE AMONG THE DOCTORS.

FROM E. C. SHOEMAKER, M. D.

(Reading, Penn.)

The following is from Dr. Shoemaker's recent excellent volume, entitled "The Ear; Its Diseases and Injuries and Their Treatment," pages 359, 360, 361, 362.

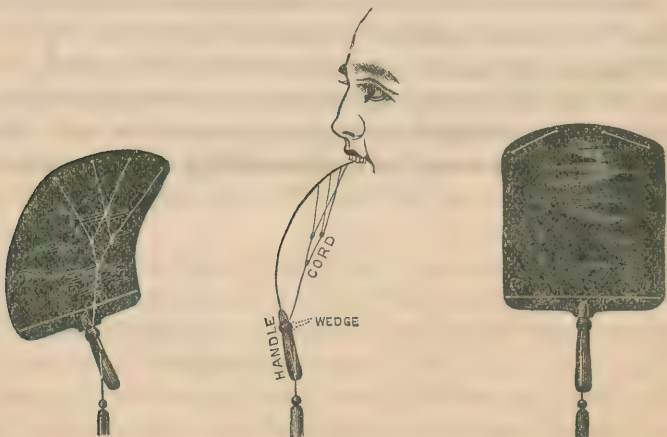
### THE AUDIPHONE.

The Audiphone is an instrument invented by Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago. It is made of hard rubber, in the shape of a fan, and is intended to convey sounds to the auditory nerve through the medium of the teeth. The external ear has nothing whatever to do in hearing with the instrument, which is represented in Figs. 39, 40 and 41.

Fig. 39.

Fig. 40.

Fig. 41.



Much has been claimed by the public press for the merits of this instrument. As the number of people deprived of the function of hearing is very large, it is but natural that any

promise of relief by any means obtainable by such afflicted, would receive their earnest attention and inquiries, and if found practical would be regarded by them as a great boon. In order to test the merits of this instrument, I have put myself to quite considerable expense and inconvenience, and even delayed the issue of this book that I might give its readers correct and reliable information on the subject *from my personal knowledge, obtained by a careful and impartial test of the instrument in a number of cases at my office.* These cases, it will be observed from their history, have been judiciously selected for this purpose, and the results are given as follows :

## CASE I.

*Deafness from Aural Catarrh, fifteen years' standing.*  
—Mrs. H., aged 73, gradually lost her hearing fifteen years ago from aural catarrh. Deaf to all sounds in right ear. Left ear deaf to tick of watch, but hears vibrations of tuning-fork close by. Tuning-fork heard equally well on both sides when placed on the teeth. Can hear and understand words when spoken loudly a few inches from left ear, but can not distinguish sounds at a distance. Hears ordinary conversation quite well with the aid of the Audiphone, even at a distance of 12 feet, notwithstanding she wears artificial teeth.

## CASE II.

*Deafness from Scarlet Fever, sixteen years' standing.*—W. M., aged 18, deaf from scarlet fever since two years of age, both drumheads entirely destroyed by chronic suppuration of the middle ear. Deaf to ordinary conversation. Hears and understands when loudly spoken to close by. Hears much better with the Audiphone. Hears fairly well with this instrument 20 feet or more away.

## CASE III.

*Deafness from Explosion of a Shell.* Mr. K., aged 47,

resident of this city, lost his hearing from an explosion of a shell during an engagement in the late war. Both drum-heads are completely destroyed. Is quite deaf to the voice and all ordinary sounds. Can distinguish words when spoken *very* loudly, within six inches of his ear. Tuning-fork not plainly heard on his head, but more plainly on his teeth. Told me he had not heard the sound of any bell since 1864, when he received the injury. This statement seemed incredible, yet I regarded him as a truthful man. I immediately obtained an ordinary sized dinner bell, and rang it as loudly as possible by the side of his head, but he said he could hear no sound, but that he could feel the vibrations. I then handed him one of Mr. R. S. Rhodes' Audiphones (A No. 702), and directed him how to use the same, placing myself some five feet away. I then rang the bell and gradually approached him, and when about three feet away he expressed great joy at hearing the natural ringing sound. He also said "I can hear you talk and understand first-rate what you say when I have this instrument against my teeth. I then placed myself at a distance of twenty feet from him, and spoke in an ordinary tone of voice, asking him several questions, and he answered them all correctly. He then said "I find I need not talk so loud as I hear very plainly what I myself say." Regarding this test very thorough, as well as very satisfactory in its results, I then took a seat some five feet from him, and engaged in a conversation with him, and in a rather low tone of voice, but still he understood every word. Here I may congratulate Mr. Rhodes on the success of his invention, and my patient on his good fortune in deriving such signal benefit from the same.

#### CASE IV.

*Deaf-Mutism caused by Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.*—  
J. S., aged 10, deaf since three years of age, from the effects



of cerebro-spinal meningitis, and having been deprived of hearing so early in life is also dumb. On applying the tuning-fork on his head and teeth, he intimated he could hear. I then applied the Audiphone to his teeth, and he seemed to hear when spoken to. I then asked him to repeat the sound I made; being a bright boy, and taking much interest in his examination, I had no difficulty in getting him try to repeat any sound I made. Thinking it likely he only followed the motion of my lips or mouth, I had his eyes closed, and then repeated the sounds, which he as promptly endeavored to imitate, some even remarkably correct—leaving no doubt on my mind as to his hearing with the Audiphone.

#### REMARKS.

The above cases were not consecutive, but fairly represent the result in a number of cases examined. I feel it my duty to say that I have met with several cases in which the Audiphone did not give entire satisfactory results, but I think the failures may very readily be accounted for in each case. One is that of a lady aged 68, of catarrhal deafness, the failure was altogether owing to the looseness of her artificial teeth, and in others to various causes plainly perceptible.

I may also mention that in all cases examined, other instruments of ancient and recent invention, were also tested or tried, but in no instance save one was any found as effectual as the Audiphone. I refer to the case of the lady with the loose artificial teeth. In this case the ordinary conversation tube was found the only available aid.

#### CONCLUSION.

Having carefully and impartially tested the merits of the Audiphone as a means for aiding the deaf to hear, it affords me very great pleasure to say, that in my opinion, it is the best instrument for this purpose known to the science of otology.

## FROM THE "LOUISVILLE (KY.) MEDICAL NEWS."

(Date, Dec. 27, 1879—Page 307.)

**THE AUDIPHONE AND DENTAPHONE.****By W. Cheatham, M. D.**

The Chicago Audiphone can be used at the opera or church or in general conversation with perfect comfort and success. I think the form (fan-shape) is quite an item, as it is easily carried, and can be used without exciting comment. The position of holding a fan in the mouth is quite a natural one.

The principle of the working of the Audiphone is very simple. The instrument only does good in cases of deafness the result of external and middle-ear diseases. Where the nerve is involved it is useless. The instrument is held between the teeth. The sound striking it causes certain vibrations, which are carried through the bones to the nerve of hearing. In case of the patient having artificial teeth, the conducting power is of course interfered with very much.

Patients before investing in an Audiphone should make certain tests, unless they have an instrument at hand to try. If on placing the handle of a tuning fork (which has been caused to vibrate by striking it on the knee) on the teeth, the ringing is heard distinctly, or with increased intensity; or if a watch held firmly between the teeth is heard to tick well, it is pretty certain that an Audiphone will be of some service to them. Patients in whom there is any prospect of improvement of hearing by treatment should not use an instrument except on special occasions.

Mrs. P., who is unable to hear only when the voice is considerably elevated and the mouth put close to the ear, purchased a Chicago Audiphone. The result was surprising. She can hear common conversation at some distance with it. Others I have tried with like result. My Audiphone cost \$10.50.

## FROM THE MARION CHRONICLE.

(Dated Jan. 1, 1880.)

Some time ago Dr. Webster became acquainted with a deaf and dumb boy who lives in North Marion, Indiana, and his attention being called to the recently-invented Audiphone, he determined to see what it would do for his young friend. The instrument was sent for and came to hand last Saturday. The doctor then sent for the boy to come to his house, and some very interesting experiments were had. The boy placed the instrument against his eye-teeth, and the doctor's daughter, Miss Eurette, commenced playing on the piano. The dazed and astonished look of the boy indicated that he had heard for the first time in his life, but did not know what it was. By means of writing he was informed that it was a sound he heard, and with this explanation the experiments proceeded. He laughed and cried and applied himself diligently to learn. In the course of a few hours he could distinguish the different pieces played by Eurette on the piano, and could understand a few words spoken by the doctor. We called at the doctor's residence on Monday evening to see how the boy was prospering, and was surprised and pleased to see the rapid progress he had made. We shall watch the case with great interest, and at an early day have more to say.

The Audiphone is made of vulcanized rubber, in the shape of a fan; in fact, it can be used as one, and none would have an idea that it was anything else. Two cords are drawn across the face so as to slightly curve it. The curve differs in each case, which can be found out only by trial. When the fan or instrument is ready, it is placed against the teeth and the sound waves act upon it as upon the ear drum. The instrument is so simple that when we say it is a hard rubber fan drawn into a curve by two silk cords, we have fully described it. That is all there is of it, but it is the most wonderful invention of the past year.



## PRESS COMMENDATIONS.

The Audiphone in Liverpool (England), and Elsewhere.

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### FROM THE LIVERPOOL DAILY POST.

(Date, Nov. 12, 1879.)

THE AUDIPHONE.—In his address on the mechanical genius of the Americans, last Saturday, Mr. James Samuelson showed the model of a new instrument called the Audiphone, which is destined to afford the means of hearing to deaf persons. It consists of a large thin plate of metal, which is held between the teeth, and acts as a sound board, transmitting sounds to the brain in cases where the ear is imperfect, and unable to perform its functions. Mr. Samuelson has now received one of the Audiphones from America, and tested it on Monday upon a number of gentlemen who are more or less hard of hearing, with very excellent results. After giving it a further trial, and fully satisfying himself of its efficiency, he will take means to enable all persons who are afflicted with deafness to witness its operation.

LATER.—(Same paper, December 2, 1879.) On Saturday afternoon last, there was held, in the Lecture Hall of the Free Library, a meeting in connection with the Liverpool Science and Art Classes, when the chairman of these classes, Mr. James Samuelson, exhibited an instrument designed as an aid to the deaf—the Audiphone—which he met with during his late visit to America. Mr. Councillor J. A. Picton presided, and there was a crowded audience, there being present several medical gentlemen and others interested in matters pertaining to deafness. Mr. Samuelson first gave a brief description of the structure of the several parts of the ear, and explained how, by the use of the Au-

diphone, sonorous vibrations are gathered up and transmitted through the bones of the face and the skull to the auditory nerve. He next asked several gentlemen on the platform, including Dr. Nevins, to test the instrument, and they all pronounced it a great assistance to hearing. He then tested it on two pupils from the Deaf and Dumb Institution with satisfactory results. Afterwards about a score of persons of different ages and conditions and degrees of deafness came forward from among the audience, and made a trial of the instrument, and in nearly every case it was clearly shown that such sounds as those of the voice, of a bell, a whistle, or a musical instrument, could be heard by the aid of the Audiphone, where without it they were inaudible. The general result appeared to be that, provided the auditory nerve itself was in a healthy condition, the Audiphone was of great assistance to deaf persons. Mr. Samuelson mentioned that the inventor was a Mr. Rhodes, of Chicago, and, in answer to many inquiries from the audience, stated that the Audiphone was now being manufactured by Messrs. Rhodes & McClure, of Methodist Church Block, Chicago, and sold at a price of about ten dollars. The meeting, which was of a most interesting character throughout, concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Samuelson for calling attention to so useful an invention.

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## FROM FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED PAPER.

### Information on the Education of Mutes.

The Spanish monk Pedro de Conce, whose name appears in early history, 1570, was the first who undertook to educate the mute so as to make him useful to society. After him, in the seventeenth century, J. Pablo Bonet, a Spaniard, undertook to teach the mute the art of understanding written words, and explained their meaning by drawings and

pictures. The mathematician Wallace began the education of mutes in England as early as 1680. In Holland, in the early part of the eighteenth century, Konrod Amman taught them by the motion of the lips, which he made them practice before a looking-glass. Soon after this period France established a school, through Abbe De l'Epper, to teach the mute by pantomime.

But now, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, R. S. Rhodes, of Chicago, has invented an instrument named the Audiphone, by which the deaf can hear, through the teeth, spoken words and musical sounds, and the mute that has unimpaired auditory nerve can hear his own voice.

This instrument, which has lately been exhibited in several institutions of this country, is destined to be a great boon to those afflicted with deafness.

Its success is established beyond peradventure. In fact it does more than is claimed by the inventor, as hundreds of testimonials coming from all parts of the world prove.

It not only makes the deaf hear, but by stimulating the natural organ of hearing it improves and strengthens its impaired condition. It is opening a new world for the deaf, and the name of R. S. Rhodes, in connection with the Audiphone, will pass into history and be spoken henceforth and forever along with those of Fulton and Franklin and Morse, and others.

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#### FROM THE HERALD AND PRESBYTER.

(Cincinnati, Jan. 21, 1880.)

Mr. Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago, the original inventor of the Audiphone, has recently visited this city and arranged with Mr. A. B. Merriam & Co., corner Fifth and Walnut, to represent and sell his device which enables deaf persons to hear as distinctly through the teeth as others do naturally.



The Audiphone, in appearance, is simply a rubber fan, and its use is so simple and natural that a deaf person may carry it anywhere and use it upon all occasions without attracting attention or exciting remark.

There can be no question that Mr. Rhodes' invention will prove an inestimable boon to thousands of persons who have heretofore been deprived of the priceless blessing of hearing.

We have only to add that Messrs. Rhodes & McClure have adopted a method of introducing their invention which is calculated to convince every one that they have the fullest confidence in its merits and permanent success. Several thousand of these Audiphones are already in use, and giving great satisfaction.

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## THE AUDIPHONE FOR WOMEN.

(From the Evening Wisconsin, Jan. 20, 1880.)

BY THE EDITOR, W. E. CRAMER.

In using the Audiphone it has occurred to us that no invention could have been more fortunate, especially for a pretty woman afflicted with deafness.

She can not pleasantly use the snake auricular, because it frequently places her head in an ungraceful position, and if she happens to have large or ugly ears, it invites too much attention to that glaring defect.

It is well known that Pauline, the beautiful sister of Napoleon, had very large ears, and, at one time, a rude English lady almost drove the beautiful Pauline from the ball-room by exclaiming quite aloud: "Oh, what a monstrous ear!" This invited general attention to Pauline's large ears, and it annoyed her beyond measure.

If a woman has a sea-shell of an ear she can use the Smith auricular with some satisfaction. Yet it is generally disagreeable for her to use it at all. A woman with a natural desire to conceal her infirmities does not wish people to know that she is at all deaf, as that implies some deterioration of her charms.

Now, the Audiphone invented by Mr. Rhodes, of Chicago genius, does away with all this misery and trouble. The woman can jauntily place the edges of the Audiphone upon her front teeth, and, if these teeth be white and fair, and her lips rosy and luscious, the Audiphone unconsciously invites special attention to her charms in that regard.

If she has beautiful eyes she can flash them upon the person with whom she is speaking, with much better effect with the Audiphone upon her teeth, than if she had to bend her head in using the ordinary auricular.

So, we think that Mr. Rhodes has been fortunate in introducing an invention for the bright and handsome woman of our grand land, who may, in some degree, be afflicted with an infirmity of hearing, and then, so far from depreciating her charms by the effort to hear, she will appear even more interesting, for thousands of our fairest women keep a fan in their hand for the purpose of adroitly inviting observation to their beautiful teeth, the fashion being to put one edge of the fan in the corner of the mouth, thus showing also the glowing radiance of their lips.

Now, in this nineteenth century, when so many efforts are made by the fair sex to beautify their forms and their faces, is it not most fortunate that a discovery has been made which takes away the edge of an infirmity and renders it possible that even a maiden who is touched with an infirmity of hearing may become a belle ?

## FROM THE CHRISTIAN INTELLIGENCER.

## THE AUDIPHONE.

A correspondent of the *Christian Intelligencer* writes: It may seem a small matter to speak of as an outcome of a great city's doings—but there is a room in New York where you may go to-day and sit and have a blessed revelation and thank God. One and another come in, bearing on their faces the peculiar lines which indicate the sadness and solicitude of deafness. They take into their hands what seems a curved fan, and rest it (as is the wont of those who fan themselves) against their lips, or rather seem to touch it gently to their teeth. Instantly a pleasing surprise pervades their countenance, and soon the sorrow lines smooth out of their brows and cheeks, not wholly from within but reflected from the speech and sounds about them. They hear! They are out of a long imprisonment, whose thick walls have shut from them the voices of men, or dulled them into a confused and distant murmur. One says (a young man), "I was receiving a large salary and saw a prosperous career before me, but I was forced to resign it all under the pressure of increasing deafness, and I have found myself strangely incapacitated for what I feel I could best do, and need to do for the sake of others as well as myself. And now I hear you all, and could transact business with you as well as ever." Another says, "I went three times to church yesterday, as has been my wont, but I heard scarcely a word; but now I hear distinctly your ordinary tones." And the whole secret is in that little fan which each holds against his teeth. Are not the tailsmans of science working greater marvels than the babled genii, or the dreams of Arabian Nights? All this is but a faint preluding mutter of a great sea of blessed sound, which is to surge in upon myriads of relived hearts when the Audiphone makes itself heard as it makes men to hear.



"A man deafer than Edison has shown, by the Audiphone, that people born deaf or made deaf by disease, can actually be made to hear to a greater or less extent."—*Detroit Free Press*. Nov. 25, 1879.

"It is valuable, and will materially help in the education of children like those at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, and will doubtless prove an effective aid to the many people of impaired hearing. Its discovery therefore is a cause for congratulation, and its attractive appearance and convenience for use, so different from the old-fashioned ear trumpet, will serve to bring it largely into use."—*Hartford (Conn.) Courant*.

"Deaf mutes were able to hear the music of the piano when at a considerable distance from the instrument."—*N. Y. Observer's Report of Private Exhibition*.

"This wonderful invention promises to be one of great value."—*Illustrated N. Y. Christian Weekly*.

"Tests were satisfactorily applied to several members of a class of deaf mutes who were present, and the pleasure at hearing sound evinced by one young girl was most interesting and touching. A new organ, or a new use for an organ, is discovered, if not created."—*From Jenny June's Letter in Baltimore American*. Dec. 1, 1879.

"At last the deaf are made to hear. Failing to hear through the front door of the ear the Audiphone carries it to the back."—*Concord (N. H.) Daily Monitor*. Nov. 25.

"The deaf-mutes were enabled to distinguish the difference between sounds, and enjoyed the singing of one of the ladies."—*New York Tribune's Report of Exhibition*. Nov. 22, 1879.

"The Audiphone, for the deaf, is likely to supersede the ear trumpet altogether; is not at all objectionable to carry or to use, and enables thousands who never heard a sound in their lives to distinguish letters, words and music for the first time."—*Church Union*. November 29, 1879.

"In this invention Mr. Rhodes has proved himself a benefactor."—*The Standard*. Sept. 25, 1879.

"The fact of hearing through the medium of the teeth has long been known, but it is remained for the inventor of the Audiphone to utilize this fact for the benefit of the afflicted."—*New York Star*. Nov. 22, 1879.

"A class of deaf-mutes from the Washington Heights Asylum were present, and the tests with them were quite satisfactory. Some heard the notes of the piano for the first time."—*New York Evangelist's Report of New York Exhibition*. Nov. 27, 1879.

"Seems to discount any of the instruments invented by Edison to aid the hearing."—*New Orleans Times*. Nov. 27, 1879.

"The invention will have practical value."—*New York Herald*.

"It is all the inventor claims it to be."—*Evansville (Ind.) Journal*. Nov. 30, 1879.

"The Trial was an eminent success."—*Boston Traveler*. Dec. 2, 1879.

"Has proved a signal success."—*Albany (N. Y.) Press*.

"Would be easily mistaken for a fan."—*Democrat and Chronicle*.

"In many cases of deafness, where the auditory nerve is impaired, the Audiphone can be of no avail; but where, as is often the case, the defect is only in those parts of the ear by which vibrations are conveyed to the nerve from without, this invention will prove a great boon."—*Washington (D. C.) Post*. Oct. 27, 1879.

"Will practically restore to speech and hearing a large class of afflicted persons."—*Toronto (Canada) Mail*. Dec. 5, 1879.

"Great benefit to those partially deaf."—*Providence (R. I.) Journal*. Nov. 6, 1879.

"Earlier reports are fully borne out by later experiments."—*Denver Times*. December 6, 1879.

"A new and ingenious device by which the deaf are enabled to hear through the medium of the teeth."—*New York Graphic*. Nov. 21, 1879.

"One of the wonders of this day of telephones, phonographs and the like, is the Audiphone, invented by Richard S. Rhodes, of Chicago, which enables deaf people to hear with their teeth. People who have once heard, but have grown deaf, and thus know the meaning of sounds and can talk themselves, practically have perfect hearing restored by the use of the Audiphone."—*Springfield Republican*.

"Had it in our possession not more than two minutes before we were satisfied that it was at least all that we anticipated, but have since found it to be much superior to anticipations. Besides, we find it to improve by use, also to improve our natural hearing, which is remarkable."—*Editor Germantown Telegraph, Philadelphia*, Nov. 26, 1879.

"With a little practice the sounds thus received are interpreted the same as if they reached the nerves of hearing through the ear."—*Scientific American*.

## PERSONAL COMMENDATIONS.

(Extracts from Correspondence.)

### LETTER TO HON. JOSEPH MEDILL, EDITOR "CHICAGO TRIBUNE."

(From E. F. Test, Claim Agent U. P. R. R.)

{ FREIGHT AUDITOR'S OFFICE,  
          OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 21, 1879.

MY DEAR MR. MEDILL:

Instead of going to church this morning, I have come down to the office to thank you for your renewed thoughtfulness in sending me the pamphlet about the Audiphone. I sent to Mr. Rhodes for one after receiving your first notice, and got the conversational style. It answers the purpose admirably. It has created quite a sensation among my friends. It was comical to see a number of them fanning themselves with it, under the impression that it was simply a fan, and then in a few moments to see their astonishment when they saw me hearing with it just as well as I ever did. All the physicians to whom I have shown it endorse it warmly.

Your sincere friend,

E. F. TEST.

FROM E. F. TEST.

(Claim Agent Union Pacific R. R. Co.)

{ UNION PACIFIC R. R. OFFICE,  
          OMAHA, NEB., Sept. 19, 1879.

MESSRS. RHODES & McCLOURE, Chicago, Ill.

The Audiphone came all right yesterday noon. It appears to answer the purpose admirably, and seems to have

created quite a sensation among my friends. Now that I have it, I don't want to do without one for a day. I am astonished and delighted at the volume of sound the instrument can convey through the nerves. It seems to work on the principle of ventriloquism. I enclose my cheque No. 4 on the State Bank of Nebraska for \$10.00.

I am, respectfully yours, E. F. TEST.

---

FROM RT. REV. R. H. CLARKSON, D. D.,

(Bishop of Nebraska, Omaha.)

"I am personally acquainted with Mr. Test of Omaha, and I can scarcely make him hear by shouting to him. If you make that man hear you do wonders."—*Bishop Clarkson's remark while purchasing an Audiphone in the Chicago office.*

---

FROM A YOUNG LADY.

(Concerning her Father.)

"My father, who has been deaf forty-six years, and who can only hear when you are near to him and speak very loudly, can hear an ordinary conversation by the help of the Audiphone."

CHICAGO, Sept. 22, 1879.

---

FROM JOHN ATKINSON.

(Sec., Treas., Supt., and Engineer Racine Gaslight Co., and builder of West Side Gas Works, Chicago.)

{ OFFICE OF RACINE GASLIGHT COMPANY,  
RACINE, WIS., Sept. 19, 1879.

MESSRS. RHODES & MCCLURE, Chicago, Ill.

*Gents:*—I have been deaf for thirty years, but can now hear distinctly with the Audiphone. I thank God that I



now have something that will help my hearing, and that I can now enjoy, as well as others, some of the delights of this world's amusements.

Yours truly, JOHN ATKINSON.

FROM W. W. EVANS.

{ GRANT LOCOMOTIVE WORKS,  
PATTERSON, N. J., Sept., 1879.

MESSRS. RHODES & McCLURE, Chicago, Ill.,

*Gents:*—Your Audiphone to hand. The lady (my sister) has tried it, and finds she can hear now an ordinary conversation, which she can not do without it. I would not part with it for ten times its cost.

Very respectfully, W. W. EVANS.

FROM HENRY MILNES, Esq.

(Resident of Cold Water, Mich.)

I have been a little deaf for over thirty years and very deaf for twenty years, and have not heard a sermon, lecture, or a tune on the piano for twenty years. I procured an Audiphone yesterday and can already hear quite well an ordinary conversation, and expect by a little practice to be able to hear sermons, music, etc., without much difficulty.

CHICAGO, Sept. 24, 1879.

HENRY MILNES.

S. H. WELLER, D.D.,

“The loss of hearing is a deprivation than which there is scarcely any other more serious. The extent to which this misfortune prevails can only be realized when we reflect

that the deaf are to be found in numbers in every community. The man, therefore, who by any device, affords relief to this army of afflicted ones, not only deserves honorable mention as an inventor, but becomes a benefactor of his race. The "Audiphone," recently invented by Mr Rhodes, of the firm of Rhodes & McClure, gives good promise of meeting this case. The inventor himself, with whom it is difficult to converse at all, joins readily, with the use of this instrument, in ordinary conversation. I am satisfied, from experiments which I have witnessed, that, excepting instances in which the auditory nerve is fatally paralyzed, all the deaf may, by its help, be enabled to hear and intelligently converse. This invention employs an entirely new and hitherto unused medium of sound and hence the most convincing and gratifying results are obtained, where the natural organ of hearing is entirely destroyed. I should like to speak in terms of strong commendation of an invention which is certain to be widely used, and which is bound to play a prominent part in ministering to the comfort of the afflicted."

S. H. WELLER,

Resident Minister, Chicago.

---

FROM E. C. ELY.

{ OFFICE OF REYNOLDS & ELY,  
 { WHOLESALE PROVISION DEALERS,  
 PEORIA, ILL., Oct. 4, 1879.

Messrs. RHODES & MCCLURE, Chicago, Ill.

*Gentlemen* :—The 'phone at hand, and on trial even more satisfactory than could be expected at first use. My wife and friends are delighted and enthusiastic over it. They are rejoiced that I can hear, and I am glad that it no longer requires an effort on their part to enable me to do so. I have sent the pamphlets to friends similarly afflicted, and would like five or six more for the same purpose.

Yours truly,

E. C. ELY.

FROM MRS. F. A. LEX.

" 114 SOUTH TWENTY-FIRST STREET,  
" PHILADELPHIA, PA., NOV. 15. }

" MESSRS. RHODES & McCLURE:—The Audiphone arrived safely, and I hasten to assure you of its *perfect* success for *my* hearing. In ordinary conversation I can not use it against the eye-teeth, as it makes the voices too loud, although the Audiphone is scarcely drawn. I entered into general conversation with perfect ease, last evening, for the first time for five or six years. A melodeon or piano I hear distinctly at great distances. Reading aloud is also easily heard. My family and friends are so rejoiced at my success, and regard the instrument in wonder. My physician is delighted with it, and thinks, as my deafness arose greatly from nervousness, that the Audiphone will stimulate the auditory nerve, and possibly benefit or restore my sense of hearing. The terrible strain being taken from my mind gives me such rest and spirits that I almost forget my deafness.

" Yours very truly, MRS. F. A. LEX."

---

FROM H. A. BARRY.

" MESSRS. RHODES & McCLURE:—The Audiphone, per Adams' Express, arrived all right, and my wife is delighted with it. She has been to the theatre and other public entertainments, and for the first time in twelve years was she able to hear all that was said.

" H. A. BARRY, 26 Post Office Ave., Baltimore, Md.

" Dec. 9, 1879."

---

FROM JOHN B. SCOTT.

" I find that the more accustomed I become to the use of my Audiphone the better results do I obtain, and having



been quite deaf for over thirty years I can assure you it is a great gratification to be able to attend any place where public speaking is going on and hear all that is uttered by the speakers—a pleasure that has been denied me all that time.

“Nov. 26, 1879.

“JOHN B. SCOTT, New York.”

### FROM CHRISTOPHER COOPER.

(Chatsworth, Ill., Jan. 3, 1880.)

MESSRS. RHODES & McCLURE,

*Gentlemen:*—I received the Audiphone you sent me quite safe, and am pleased to tell you that I can hear remarkably well with it. Gave it a good trial last evening. My wife talked and read to me just as she would to a person that had their natural hearing, and I could hear every word distinctly. Could hear my children converse with each other, which I could not do without the Audiphone. My little boy said he felt almost sorry that I had got one, as I should be able to hear all he said now. I noticed that it is not necessary to apply the Audiphone to my teeth when the baby cries, unless I want to hear an extra loud yell, so now I may begin to think there is some advantage in being deaf, for if I want to hear anything I can do so, and if I do not want to hear a noise, I can shut off the sound of the Audiphone. Yours, etc.,

CHRISTOPHER COOPER.

### FROM C. H. PINKHAM, JR.

Boston, January 6, 1880.

MESSRS. RHODES & McCLURE, Chicago, Ill.

*Gentlemen:*—The Audiphone is a success with my sister. She hears perfectly and is consequently overjoyed.

Success to you in your business. May you make ten million dollars.

Yours, C. H. PINKHAM, JR.

## FROM THE EVENING WISCONSIN.

(Milwaukee, Oct. 1, 1879.)

The editor of this paper, Mr. W. E. Cramer, who is very deaf, after making some experiments with the Audiphone, says, in an editorial (we quote his exact words):

“He has come to the conclusion that the Audiphone is a very valuable invention. His deafness is of long standing and his hearing is very much impaired, yet, with the Audiphone he can hear persons speak at a distance, which would be utterly impossible without its use. He has tried it in the process of reading and he finds it very serviceable. The use of the Audiphone has the advantage that it can be applied without effort and that when a deaf person is disposed to be lazy he can hear, notwithstanding. With the old ‘snake auricular’ this can not be so for there is always a deal of labor in striving to keep the auricular in the ear.”

LATER.—(Same paper, October 18, 1879.) “We have been continuing our experiments with the Audiphone, and we have come to the conclusion that it is a superior invention for ordinary conversation. The singularity of the Audiphone consists in this: that the ingenuity of man seems to have invented something by which a person of impaired hearing can hear without the use of his ears. The two upper teeth (eye teeth) of the mouth become, as it were, the ears, and so long as the edge of the Audiphone is upon those teeth, the articulations of the human voice are conducted with accuracy to the understanding.”

STILL LATER.—(Same paper, Jan. 7, 1880.) “Mr. Rhodes, of Chicago, inventor of the Audiphone, accompanied by his sister, Miss Lena Rhodes, paid the *Wisconsin* office a pleasant visit this forenoon. Mr. Rhodes uses the Audiphone himself, and says its usefulness to him materially increases by use, and that he can hear with it an hundred per cent better now than when he first commenced to use it. He is

constantly engaged in improving the Audiphone, and feels confident of yet making it of great use to the thousands of deaf and dumb who are now within asylums. Mr. Rhodes' personal appearance is so much in his favor that he would be observed almost anywhere. Phrenologically he possesses a head of genius, and he has certainly signalized himself by an invention which, the longer it is tested, will place him among the marked men of this extraordinary era of scientific progress in all that tends to the comfort and civilization of man."

---

FROM OSCAR P. TAYLOR.

WEBB CITY, ARK., January 10, 1880.

*Gentlemen:*—Audiphone is to hand and may God bless you for your invention; can hear as well as any one.

Yours, OSCAR P. TAYLOR.

---

FROM ELIZA J. BARRET.

(279 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass., Jan. 13, 1880.)

MR. RICHARD S. RHODES,

*Dear Sir:*—Please accept my thanks for "Audiphone."

I have delayed acknowledging its receipt until I could try it, and speak of its merits more intelligently. It is, indeed, a simple yet beautiful and valuable invention, and a great boon to those who, like myself, are afflicted with the loss and impairment of the sense of hearing. Respectfully,

ELIZA J. BARRET.

---

FROM ABBIE R. STEVENS.

"SALEM, MASS., Oct. 9, 1879.

*Gents:*—I hear ordinary conversation with ease, and it is a wonder to me every time I use it. Sounds that I have



not heard for years and had quite forgotten came back distinctly, and the more I use it the better I like it."

LATER.—(Dec. 13, 1879). "I attend church, hear perfectly six pews from the desk, *and can not hear the minister's voice without the Audiphone*. I go to lectures and concerts, and, in short, am alive again and a part of the world. Sometimes I think my Audiphone is bewitched, it works so well."

The Audiphone operates with remarkable power in enabling the deaf to successfully hear the varying sounds and harmonies of music, whether produced by the voice or instruments. To such who have heretofore been denied the pleasure of hearing the "divine art," this invention will be of great advantage. So, also, is it invaluable as an aid to hear sermons, lectures, public speaking, etc.

The Audiphone is Patented throughout the civilized world.

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